

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a vacuum cleaner having an air guide funnel directly contacting the suction device in combination with the other elements of claims 1 and 13. Modifying the cleaner in Kuwahara to read on the claims would close the space between the motor 15 and air guide preventing air from flowing from the inlet to the exhaust. Further, only through hindsight would one modify the blower 23 in Kuwahara to be positioned on the opposite end of the motor 15. The device would have to be radically modified in order to meet the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A. Redding whose telephone number is 571-272-1276. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 6:00 - 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Hail can be reached on 571-272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ David Redding /
Primary Examiner
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DAR